

HOWARD COUNTY BRAC TASK FORCE

BRAC BIT: #41

DATE: 21 May 2009

SUBJECT(S): BRAC Business Initiative, Task Force Update, Regional Update

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DISCUSSION:

- 1. BRAC Business Initiative (BBI):** As you may recall, the BBI is focused on identifying and documenting the environment that small and minority businesses must traverse during the attainment of a contract with a Fort Meade DOD Organization and/or supporting contractor. This is a one year project. We continue to build the base. I will be contacting both participating and interested parties immediately after the Memorial Day weekend with next steps.
- 2. Howard County Task Force Update:**
 - a. The Lessons Learned Committee has completed visits to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Patuxent Naval Air Station and Fort Belvoir. They are in the process of writing up their findings and recommendations. Not surprisingly, we all share many of the same concerns about the implications of BRAC growth.
 - b. The Family Support Committee continues to work on a family packet which addresses the specific needs of Federal Families transitioning to Howard County and, ultimately, the region. The objective is to work "one on one" with individual families in order to resolve routine and unique issues.
 - c. The Education Committee is working closely with the Family Support Committee in identifying obstacles and developing the appropriate strategies necessary to support smooth transitions on the schools side.
 - d. The Health and Human Services Committee and, more specifically, Howard County Citizen Services continue to manage the OEA grant that is focused on identifying the impact of Fort Meade growth on segments of Howard County people services.
 - e. The Infrastructure Committee: We will be going to the leadership of this committee in the near future to receive their feedback on the development of the Route One Corridor and how that relates to Fort Meade growth.
- 3. Fort Mead Regional Growth Management Committee (RGMC):**
 - a. *Transportation:* The Regional Transportation Committee continues to work with the myriad of stakeholders across the region in planning and coordinating transportation actions in and around Fort Meade. This is turning out to be one of the real success stories of the RGMC.
 - b. *Work Force:* On behalf of the RGMC, representatives of Ann Arundel and Howard counties are developing a process to identify and document specific work force issues related to scarcity of key personnel required to support defense agencies and defense contractors.
 - c. *Emergency Services:* The focus is on the region's ability to respond to a major event. We are currently addressing several planning obstacles!